

**VA CZM Program Administration Progress Report -
April 1, 2007 – September 30, 2007**

Reporting Date: April 6, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- NOAA finally released FY 2007 budget numbers for CZM Programs. Unfortunately, there will be no funding for Coastal Nonpoint Source Programs within CZM. That's a loss of \$187,000 compared to FY 2006. In addition, cuts were made to Section 306 funding. The FY 2006 Section 306 award was \$2,080,000. In FY2007 we will receive only \$1,967,000 – a loss of \$113,000. Section 309 funding for development of new enforceable policies was kept level funded at \$536,000. Combined with increasing salary and fringe benefits costs, these reductions have forced us to cut substantially into programmatic priorities. A draft application for the total grant of \$2,503,000 FY 2006 total was \$2,803,000) will be submitted to NOAA as close to the April 16 deadline as possible. NOAA is granting extensions on application deadlines to the states given their delay in finalizing budget numbers.
- The Virginia CZM staff is planning the biennial Virginia CZM Partners Workshop to be held on December 6 & 7, 2007 at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel and Conference Center. Staff is working with an interagency planning committee of local and state agency representatives. Workshop plenary and sessions will focus on climate change and population change impacts on Virginia's coastal zone.

Events/Agency Visits:

- CZM staff attended a two-day NOAA Coastal Services Center Workshop - Remote Sensing for Spatial Analysts on March 27-28 at the Virginia Tech Richmond Center. The class learned remote sensing techniques using ArcGIS 9.1 for four topics: land cover analysis for understanding changes in the landscape, benthic habitat mapping to determine changes in coverage of underwater sea grasses, sea surface temperature analysis for fisheries management, and shoreline topographic analysis to detect shoreline movement on barrier islands.
- On Apr 4, CZM staff held a conference call with the Potomac Gorge CELCP partners to develop a plan of action to spend the remaining \$2.7 million of a federal earmarked award for land conservation in the Gorge. Over the past few months, TNC and DCR-DNH had been working toward purchasing a conservation easement on over 100 acres of the Madeira School property in Fairfax County with these funds. That deal has collapsed. At the conclusion of the conference call, the partners decided to request from Sen. Wolf's office an expansion of the project area from the Potomac Gorge Conservation Site upstream to the Fairfax County border. This would allow the partners to pursue many more feasible acquisition opportunities.

Reporting Date: April 13

Agency Matters/Operations:

- CZM staff continued work on development of a draft application for FY 2007 funds. The draft will be submitted to NOAA no later than April 30, per NOAA's request.

Events/Agency Visits:

- At the 2007 Environment Virginia Conference Coastal Planner, Kelly Price, gave a presentation on two CZM programs – the Virginia Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and the Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (Coastal GEMS) - that serve as tools and strategies for identifying and prioritizing lands of high ecological value for conservation. She and the CZM Outreach Coordinator, Virginia Witmer, exhibited Coastal GEMS at DEQ's interactive display, giving conference attendees the ability to explore the online mapping application.

- The next meeting of the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program partners will be held on April 27 at 1:30 at VIMS. Work will continue on refinement of an oyster management plan for the Rappahannock River that involves maintenance and expansion of sanctuary (non-harvestable) reefs, 6 rotational harvest areas (3 upstream of the Route 3 bridge and 3 downstream), a spat-on-shell put-and-take area upstream of the harvest areas, an upper size limit on oysters, economic cost figures and possibly limited entry regulations. The group hopes to have a plan completed in time for approval by the Marine Resources Commission at their September 25, 2007 meeting.
- CZM's Seaside Heritage Program interagency partners will meet on April 19 in Oyster to continue work on a Seaside Management Plan. The plan will try to detail ways to protect seaside resources such as oyster reefs, clam farms, underwater grasses, important bird habitats and ecotourism infrastructure.

Reporting Date: April 30

Agency Matters/Operations:

- Work is continuing on finalizing the FY 2007 draft CZM application to NOAA. Staff expects to submit it this week along with the semi-annual reports on grants and agency activities. NOAA granted extensions on both deadlines in light of their delay in giving states their final FY 2007 budget figures.

Events/Agency Visits:

- On April 19 CZM's interagency Seaside Heritage Program partners met to continue work on a Seaside Management Plan. A revised draft of the plan has been produced by the contractor, UVA's Institute for Environmental Negotiation. The partners now have two weeks to get comments back to UVA.
- On April 24 the CZM Program Manager and Coastal Planner provided DCR's Suffolk Office with a demonstration of Coastal GEMS (Geospatial and Educational Mapping System). DCR Suffolk staff was especially pleased to be able to view water features adjacent to land features and expressed great interest in using GEMS in their daily work.
- On April 25 the CZM Program Manager convened an interagency/ private industry/non-profit group to discuss development of new policies for shellfish aquaculture. This meeting was follow-up to a similar one held last year at which the group laid out a 5 year Section 309 strategy using CZM funds. It was agreed that rather than try to develop a coastal zone-wide aquaculture policy in the first 2-3 years, we would piggy-back efforts with the Rappahannock oyster management plan (see below). Marine Resources Commission staff will request an opinion from the Attorney General's Office as to whether MRC has authority to re-survey Baylor grounds and re-designate currently unproductive areas for shellfish aquaculture purposes. CZM funds expended in FY 2007 (Oct 2007-Sep 2008) will be spent on four projects: 1) an in-depth mapping analysis by VIMS of the lower Rappahannock applying the VIMS shellfish culturing suitability model (\$60,000); 2) an economic benefits analysis of shellfish aquaculture in the Rappahannock by DEQ and subcontractors (\$30,000); 3) continuation of a Best Management Practices manual for shellfish aquaculture by VIMS (\$14,000); and 4) development of policy scenarios for increasing subaqueous bottom available for shellfish aquaculture by VIMS (\$36,000).
- On April 26 the CZM Manager attended the First Landing Re-enactment at First Landing State Park and worked with Arnett & Associates (which represents historic re-enactors) to arrange photos for the cover of Virginia Coastal Management and one of the stories in the upcoming spring issue. The Virginia CZM Program helped fund reconstruction of the boardwalk at First Landing State Park which was completed just in time for the re-enactment and used extensively for these festivities.
- The CZM Program Manager facilitated an April 27 meeting of the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program (VOHP) at VIMS. Attendees included reps from DEQ, MRC, VIMS, Waterman's Association, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, Tidewater Oyster Gardener's Association, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Kellum Seafood. An outline for the plan was created and some details filled in. VIMS' preliminary assessment of circulation patterns and expected oyster larvae settlement in the lower Rappahannock

fortunately matched well with our initial boundaries for rotational management areas. The plan will continue to be developed and the group will meet again on July 19. The group expects to have a plan completed in time for approval by the Marine Resources Commission at their September 25, 2007 meeting.

- On May 4 the CZM Manager will speak briefly at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority's Browne Tract. This land was purchased entirely with Section 306A CZM funds. In addition the public access authority was created through a CZM grant to the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission.

Reporting Date: May 4

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The draft Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program 22nd Year Implementation Grant. was sent to NOAA on May 2. The purpose of this award is to fund activities of Virginia state agencies and local governments to improve the management and protection of Virginia's coastal resources. For FY 2007 the total federal award is \$2,503,000.

Section 306 projects focus on continuing basic functions of the program such as management, outreach, federal consistency reviews, environmental education, coastal habitat permit review and technical assistance from planning district commissions to their local government members. Section 306 also funds Virginia's "focal area." FY 2007 marks the 6th and last year of the Seaside Heritage Program (\$395,500) which is restoring coastal resources such as sea grass beds, oyster reefs, and salt marshes as well as promoting ecotourism and aquaculture. A social marketing campaign may be created to encourage local protection efforts for the Seaside's coastal resources. Section 306A projects (\$298,000) are focused on land acquisition and oyster reef construction.

For FY 2007, matching funds in the form of Water Quality Improvement grants to upgrade sewage treatment plants have been reduced by nearly half as requested in NOAA's May 2006 evaluation of the Virginia CZM program. These funds have been replaced with more direct match to individual tasks.

Events/Agency Visits:

- On May 1, CZM staff hosted a conference call for the Potomac Gorge CELCP partners. Congressman Wolf's office (10th district), along with TNC was instrumental in obtaining \$3 million for conservation along the Potomac River above Washington, D.C. It has been difficult to find willing sellers in this area and so Wolf's Office was asked for approval to expand the current project area upstream to the Fairfax County border. The Potomac Gorge partners discussed new collaborative opportunities for conservation in this area and have scheduled another conference call to update each other on progress in early June. This grant award will terminate June 30, 2008 at the latest.
- On May 4, the CZM Program Manager spoke at the Browne Tract Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in King and Queen County. The CZM Program provided 100% of funds to acquire this 274-acre tract, which is now jointly owned by the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority and the VA Dept. of Forestry. The site is open to hunting, hiking, canoeing, and other recreational activities. MPCBPAA chairman, Frank Pleva; Delegate Harvey Morgan; Delegate Peace; Andy Lacatell of The Nature Conservancy and MPPDC Director of Regional Planning, Lewie Lawrence also spoke at the event. NOAA Coastal Services Center Fellow, Jacqueline Shapo, helped to plan the event.

Reporting Date: May 11

Events/Agency Visits:

- On May 9 and 10, the two CZM Program Coastal Planners attended the Working Waterways and Waterfronts: A National Symposium on Water Access in Norfolk, VA. The national symposium was convened by Virginia Sea Grant at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The symposium served as

a catalyst to organize and share the most current thinking regarding the growing impediments to boating and fishing access. It educated attendees about local, state, and national-level initiatives and legislation designed to address issues of water access and water-dependent industries. New management approaches to the water access dilemma will result from the sharing among experienced planners and other experts through this national dialogue. The CZM Program helped to sponsor this symposium and we showcased our oyster gardening, living shorelines, Seaside Water Trail, and Coastal GEMS programs at an exhibit.

At the Symposium, the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission received one of seven Recreational Boating Access Awards from the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS), the nation's leading advocate for recreational boaters (over 670,000 members nationwide). The MPPDC received the award for creation of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority in response to legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2002. The Authority provides a model institutional framework for local governments to address public water access on a regional basis. Virginia CZM has supported the MPCBPAA since 2003 with over \$1.3 million in funding for development of the PAA organizational framework, land acquisition, enhancements to public access sites, an inventory of road endings in the Middle Peninsula that provide water access and the development of legislation that eliminates an obstacle for conserving these road ending for public water access when they are transferred from the Commonwealth Transportation Board (H.B. 2781). The Award was created to honor a group, government body, business, individual or non-profit organization that has succeeded in preserving or improving public waterway access for boaters, and is designed to draw national attention to innovative solutions in the hope of sharing success stories so that others may put such experiences to work in helping to solve their own waterway access challenges. Judging criteria included: how well challenges were overcome; the direct impact of the solution; and how adaptable the approach would be in other areas facing similar water access challenges.

Reporting Date: May 25, 2007

- On May 22 the VA CZM Program Coastal Planners attended the spring Coastal PDC meeting at the Accomack-Northampton PDC. The group discussed the outcomes of their Technical Assistance grants, funded by VA CZM, and of upcoming workshops and conferences the PDCs are sponsoring. The group also learned about tomato plasticulture and stormwater BMPs being used to reduce runoff while on a tour of the Matthews Farm.
- The VA CZM Program is submitting its final grant application to NOAA next week for its 22nd year of program implementation funds. The award amount to Virginia will be \$2,503,000 in federal funds which will be matched by grant recipients with \$1,967,000. The federal amount is \$300,000 less than the current award. The new award will begin on October 1, 2007 and run through September 30, 2008.
- The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Magazine is being printed and will be available for distribution by the first week of June. Hardcopies will be distributed to federal, state and local coastal zone management partners (government, non-profit and business) and also distributed to the public and other interested parties at information and education events. The magazine will be downloadable from the Virginia CZM website early next week – <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/magazine.html>. Articles in this issue highlight "Living Shorelines", Coastal GEMS, CZM's role in land conservation, oyster management on the Rappahannock River, and changes to Virginia's coastal resources in the 400 years since the founding of Jamestown.

Events/Agency Visits:

- On May 17 the Virginia CZM Program Manager gave a presentation at the Virginia Energy Symposium. The presentation covered basic facts about the CZM Program: how it operates; what it funds; federal consistency authority; where data gaps exist in our ability to assess potential offshore energy development impacts; and what projects VA CZM has funded that may help with policy development relevant to offshore energy production. The latter included migratory bird studies, marine mammal/sea turtle strandings analysis, Seaside Heritage Program and the Coastal GEMS internet mapping system.

Reporting Date: June 1, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On May 30 Coastal staff met with state agency and nonprofit reps interested in helping us to set coastal land acquisition priorities for our Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) plan required by NOAA. It was agreed that we will use the national CELCP point system when judging applications within Virginia that merit being forwarded to NOAA. Each coastal state is allowed to submit only 3 projects per year with each project requesting no more than \$3 million in federal funds. It was also agreed that the 10 (of 110 possible points) that are awarded based on an application's relevance to its state plan, will be based on a priority area map which synthesizes Natural Heritage Program "element occurrence" data, Wildlife Action Plan Tier 1 species data, and National Audubon Important Bird Area data (recently delineated in Virginia by William & Mary's Center for Conservation Biology). Ecological value scores the highest number of points but recreational, historic and aesthetic value can earn additional points. We hope to have a draft plan available for public comment by July 2 and submit a final plan to NOAA in early September. This schedule will ensure that Virginia will receive points for having a CELCP plan when the next round of applications is submitted to NOAA in October 2007 for FY 2009 funding consideration.
- On May 31 Coastal staff conference called with economists at Virginia Tech and marine scientists at VIMS to discuss a series of CZM grants aimed at documenting the potential public and private costs and benefits of clam and oyster farming under the current regulatory framework and under some alternative frameworks. The first project will begin July 1, 2007 and all three will be complete by September 30, 2008.

Reporting Date: June 8, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On June 4 the Coastal Program Manager met with Frank Dukes of UVA's Institute for Environmental Negotiation to discuss progress on their CZM contract to draft a Seaside Management Plan. To date two meetings have been held with CZM grantees from various agencies who have worked on seaside restoration efforts. Over the summer, UVA and CZM staff will begin working with regulatory programs from relevant agencies to get their input on policy changes that may be needed to better manage the seaside coastal resources of Virginia's Eastern Shore and ensure the sustainable of compatible industries such as shellfish farming and ecotourism.
- On June 5, CZM staff met to discuss the Coastal Partner's Workshop agenda, to be held in December 2007. The workshop will focus on the impacts of climate change and population growth on Virginia's coastal resources. The draft agenda includes a plenary session, a national panel discussion, and two concurrent session tracks, one on climate change impacts and one on population growth impacts, each with four sessions focusing on different Virginia-specific issues as they relate to the workshop themes. A draft agenda will be shared with the full Coastal Policy Team for their review and approval before being finalized.
- On June 7, CZM and DEQ Admin staff submitted the final 2007 application to NOAA.

Events/Agency Visits:

- On June 8 the Coastal Planner is attending the Climate Change Science Program Committee meeting in Portsmouth, VA. The purpose of the meeting was for the committee to review EPA's report by Jim Titus and others on sea level rise in the mid-Atlantic region. Coastal Planning District Commissions contributed information to this report. Next week's weekly report will include a summary of the meeting.

- On June 12, 3 Coastal staff members will be participating in the NOAA Restoration Day at VCU's Rice Center on the James River near Charles City, VA. Staff will help with planting marsh grass, shoreline cleanup, tree surveys, sturgeon release, and an educational kayak trip.

Reporting Date: June 15, 2007

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff attended the June 8 Portsmouth meeting of the Coastal Elevations and Sensitivity to Sea-Level Rise Advisory Committee of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. The purpose of the meeting was for the Committee to hear presentations by report authors from EPA, NOAA and USGS regarding ten mid-Atlantic sea level rise issues that the Committee is considering. A draft of the report was distributed and Committee members had a chance to ask questions and voice concerns over the findings and methodology.
- On June 12, three CZM staff participated in NOAA Restoration Day at VCU's Rice Center. Staff worked with about 90 volunteers to remove debris from the James River, restore wetland vegetation, survey Baldcypress swamp communities, learn about fish community sampling in the James (through electrofishing techniques), and learn about recovery efforts for the Atlantic sturgeon (two sturgeon were released back into the river). Volunteers were from the Secretary's office, federal agencies, state agencies, non-profit organizations, and VCU faculty, staff, and students. Volunteers removed over 2,000 lbs. of trash from the James River shoreline and the Lake Charles impoundment. NOAA is working with the Rice Center to restore this impoundment back to natural wetlands. Volunteers began the first phase of this restoration by planting over 800 wetland plants along 500 ft of the impoundment shoreline.

Reporting Date: June 28, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The Virginia CZM program is beginning work on a Living Shoreline Guide for waterfront property owners. Living shorelines, a more environmentally sensitive means of shoreline protection than traditional bulkheads or rip rap, are the focus of the Coastal Program's 5-year shoreline management strategy. The Guide will be developed in cooperation with a number of shoreline management stakeholders and should be available this fall.
- The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Magazine has been mailed to 1878 coastal zone management partners (government, non-profit, business and citizens). After the June 27 Water Board meeting, the mailing list was double-checked to ensure that all members of that Board are on the mailing list. The magazine is downloadable from the Virginia CZM website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/magazine.html>.

Events/Agency Visits:

- On June 23, the Coastal Program Manager exhibited the program's Coastal GEMS internet mapping system at the Eastern Shore Land Trust's Stewardship Day. Information on Living Shorelines and the Seaside Heritage Program were also provided. The event was held for about 60 current and prospective donors of conservation easements to the E. Shore Land Trust.
- On June 26, Coastal staff attended the second meeting of the York River Use Conflict Policy Recommendation Committee at VIMS in Gloucester Point. The Committee meetings, facilitated by Michele DeWitt, will be held monthly over the next year. The next four months will be dedicated to educating Committee members on the various use conflicts along the York River in Gloucester County and over 50 local and state regulations intended to manage both the resources and uses.
- On June 27, Coastal staff met with Skip Stiles of Wetlands Watch, Carl Hershner and Marcia Berman of VIMS, Chris Kinkade of NOAA's Coastal Services Center and John Kuriawa of NOAA's Office of Ocean

and Coastal Resources Management to discuss the need for better elevation data and maps to understand the predicted locations of sea level rise impacts in Virginia. It was agreed that LIDAR data is essential to this effort. Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is a remote sensing system used to collect topographic data. This technology is being used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA scientists to document topographic changes along shorelines. These data are collected with aircraft-mounted lasers capable of recording elevation measurements at a rate of 2,000 to 5,000 pulses per second and have a vertical precision of 15 centimeters (6 inches). LIDAR data samples horizontally every square meter – other methods of determining elevation sample only every 10 meters. CZM staff will work with Wetlands Watch, NOAA and VIMS to develop a short background paper on the costs and benefits of LIDAR elevation data for Virginia. CZM staff will also contact staff at the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN) to solicit their input. Acquiring LIDAR data for coastal Virginia could cost \$3 -4 million, but could save untold sums of money if used to prepare wisely for sea level rise.

- On June 27, the NOAA Coastal Services Center Coastal Management Fellow attended the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission's Dinner Meeting in Tappahannock. Four MPPDC members were re-elected to another term on the Board of Directors, including Dr. Maurice Lynch (Chairman), Carlton Revere (Vice Chairman), Chuck Dawson (Treasurer), and Dan Kavanagh (Secretary). Ellen M. Davis - State Director of the USDA Rural Development Program in Virginia gave a presentation on program accomplishments, as well as potential applications of these USDA RD programs to the rural communities of the Middle Peninsula. Also in attendance was Delegate Chris Peace (97th District).

Reporting Date: July 13, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The Virginia CZM Program is drafting a Rappahannock River Oyster Management plan for review by the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program partners. The partners will meet on July 19 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to discuss the draft. The final plan will be presented to the Marine Resources Commission for approval at their September 25 monthly meeting.

Events/Agency Visits:

- On July 10, CZM staff met with partners operating under the Southern Tip [of the Eastern Shore] Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate stewardship and habitat restoration efforts aimed at migratory bird protection. The Virginia CZM Program is working with this group as it develops interpretive signage for the Seaside Heritage Program.
- On July 10, CZM staff met with Virginia Commonwealth University – Center for Environmental Studies partners recently contracted to continue development of the Coastal GEMS internet mapping system. We discussed project goals and set targets for new tool development. Among these are data updates, new location search tools, new information selection tools, and enhanced visual display and performance. The Coastal GEMS project is set for completion in December 2007, although new data layers will be added indefinitely as they become available and technology allows.
- CZM staff is working with the Northampton County Administrator, Katie Nunez to help coordinate an August meeting of state agency program representatives, local government program representatives and the Northampton County Board of Supervisors to better coordinate state and local programs dealing with water issues. This includes groundwater, surface water, drainage, run-off, water supply, water quality, saltwater intrusion and anything that should be considered in the development of a comprehensive watershed management plan for Northampton County.

Reporting Date: July 23, 2007

Stakeholder Issues:

- On July 19 the Virginia CZM Program convened the final meeting of the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program partners to draft a Rappahannock River Oyster Management plan. Final details were agreed to by the participating members who included three representatives of the Virginia Watermen's Association, as well as academic staff, agency staff and non-profit organization staff. The plan calls for eight management areas. The two furthest upstream will be for annual put and take harvesting. One are will be used for traditional shell replenishment and the other will be seeded with "spat-on-shell" produced in hatcheries. The six downstream areas will be used for rotational harvests: two of the six will be open each year. In addition, these six downstream areas will include broodstock sanctuary reefs. Only oysters larger than three inches and smaller than 4.25 inches will be legal to harvest. Illegally small oysters will be thrown back overboard by the watermen. Illegally large oysters will be turned in to a designated Marine Patrol Officer at a designated broodstock sanctuary for a reimbursement amount to be determined annually by the Marine Resources Commission. Apart from a few minor edits, the plan is ready to be presented to the Marine Resources Commission for approval at their September 25 monthly meeting.
- Virginia CZM staff met with various stakeholders on July 18 at VIMS to discuss preparation of a Living Shoreline Landowner Guide. Living shorelines, a more environmentally sensitive means of shoreline protection than traditional bulkheads or rip rap, are the focus of the Coastal Program's 5-year shoreline management strategy. Based on initial feedback from the meeting, Virginia CZM staff will draft a detailed outline for review by a larger steering committee. A series of draft Landowner Guides will then be developed with printing scheduled for this fall. The Guide will be designed for distribution to waterfront property owners as they consider shoreline erosion control projects. It will be distributed through landowner contact by VMRC, VIMS, DCR-SEAS and a number of other public and private organizations.

Reporting Date: July 30, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The Virginia CZM Manager and Grants Coordinator prepared a six page report on public access constructed and land suitable for public access acquired over the past five years for the Department of Conservation and Recreation and Department of Game & Inland Fisheries' July 30 meeting with Secretary Bryant. Since 2002 nine construction projects were completed or are underway using \$316,500 in CZM funds and 13 land acquisition projects were completed or are underway using \$5,817,593 in CZM or CELCP (Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program) funds from NOAA.

Stakeholder Issues:

- Given that the development of the Rappahannock River Oyster Management plan has been completed ahead of schedule, Marine Resources Commission staff plan to present it to the Marine Resources Commissioners at the August 28 meeting rather than the September 25 meeting. This will allow more time for the Shellfish Management Advisory Committee to make the decisions that the Rappahannock Plan recommends they make, such as opening date for the season, allowable gear types in some of the areas and the buy back price for large oysters. The Virginia CZM Program Manager is delivering the final plan to MRC on August 1.
- The Virginia CZM Manager has prepared an agenda for a meeting with the Northampton County Board of Supervisors regarding their request for assistance in developing a watershed management plan that integrates relevant state agency programs. She is still waiting to hear from the Northampton County Administrator as to what date will work best for their Board of Supervisors before setting a date for the meeting and mailing out the agenda. Staff members from DCR, DEQ, and VDH have all agreed to participate.

Agency Matters/Operations:

- A save-the-date card for the December 2007 Virginia Coastal Zone Partner's Workshop has been distributed to local, regional and state partners. Workshop web pages, including registration information and agenda outline are on-line -<http://www.deq.state.va.us/coastal/workshopagenda.html>. A Virginia CZM Program Coastal Policy Team interagency committee is developing the agenda which focuses on the impacts of climate change and population growth on Virginia's coastal resources. The draft agenda includes two plenary sessions and two concurrent session tracks: one on climate change impacts and one on population growth impacts. Each concurrent session focuses on Virginia-specific theme-related issues including: coastal hazards planning, land conservation, shoreline management, local tools for growth management, ecosystem impacts of climate change, water-dependent activity conflicts & solutions, alternative energy options affecting coastal resources and preserving working waterfronts and public access. Margaret Davidson, Director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center has been confirmed as a keynote speaker on climate change on Thursday, December 6. Tom Horton has been asked but has not yet replied. The Virginia CZM Program invites Secretary Bryant to make remarks before the keynote speakers.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff attended a debriefing by DCR on the Richmond area Chesapeake Club social marketing campaign on July 17. The Chesapeake Club is a social marketing effort to change homeowner behavior about when they fertilize their lawns – it asks homeowners to wait until fall to fertilize their lawns when it will result in less runoff of nutrients to our coastal waters. Virginia CZM Coastal Nonpoint Program funds supported the spring 2007 TV and newspaper ads in Richmond and in Hampton Roads. Partners in the campaign included the City of Richmond, the counties of Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover, Cooperative Extension, and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and its member localities. According to post survey results, the campaign did achieve positive results in educating homeowners about the connection between fertilizer use and water quality. Because this campaign will achieve better results if there is a repeated, simple message, the Virginia CZM Program will continue to support the effort as funding allows.
- The Virginia CZM Program has been asked by DCR and DGIF to be a third partner in sponsoring a September 28 Adrienne Young Concert at York River State Park to benefit and promote Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan, stewardship of State Parks and Virginia's Coastal Zone. DCR and DGIF are requesting \$3,000 in CZM funds.
- Virginia CZM staff met on August 3 with three of the eight Coastal Planning District Commission staff. The meeting included presentations on the need for assistance from the PDCs on shellfish aquaculture economic data collection and the need for assistance from the PDCs in incorporating Important Bird Areas into local comprehensive planning and zoning ordinances.

Attending staff were from Middle Peninsula, Crater and Accomack-Northampton. Due to Middle Peninsula PDC not being a member of the Virginia Association of PDCs, VA PDC recently informed Middle Peninsula that it no longer chairs the Coastal PDC Committee nor does it represent the Coastal PDCs on the Virginia CZM Programs' Coastal Policy Team. For that reason five of the PDCs' Executive Directors instructed their staff not to attend this quarterly meeting. This has caused a problem for the Virginia CZM Program in that all eight Coastal PDCs are considered members of the Virginia CZM Program as well as being grantees each year. In the future, the Virginia CZM Program will have to find a way to meet with all eight coastal PDCs regardless of their membership in the VA PDC Association.

Reporting Date: August 13, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On August 7, CZM Program staff (at DEQ) met with its contractor, Virginia Commonwealth University (Center for Environmental Studies) and their subcontractor, WorldView Solutions of Richmond, to view a prototype for Phase II of the Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (Coastal GEMS). WorldView Solutions (<http://worldviewsolutions.com/>), a Geographic Information System (GIS) consulting firm, is helping to develop the new Coastal GEMS online interface and advanced mapping tools. By project completion in December 2007, users will be able to search the data inventory by interest area (land conservation, aquaculture, recreation, etc), draw an area on the screen in which to find out more specific information on features within the area, and navigate the coastal zone using more intuitive navigation tools.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff (at DEQ) will participate in a federal/state LiDAR "interest group" meeting in Charlottesville on Thursday, August 16. [Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is a remote sensing system that collects topographic data using aircraft-mounted lasers. This technology can document topographic changes along shorelines and has numerous other uses that could be helpful in planning for sea level rise.] The meeting was organized by the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN) to compile information from Virginia agencies on the potential uses of LiDAR data as well as possible sources of funds for obtaining this data.

Reporting Date: August 31, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On August 31, Coastal Zone Management Program staff met with DCR-Natural Heritage Program and DGIF-Wildlife Diversity Division to discuss a proposal for a Virginia rare species biodiversity assessment (to be completed first in the coastal zone) that aims to highlight rare species habitats in the coastal zone for which there is little or no protection. The final product will be a comprehensive synthesis of Virginia's rare species biodiversity information intended to supplement the Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment (produced by DCR – Natural Heritage) to address the strongest need for conservation decision-making in Virginia – a tool that enables the protection of lands and streams with the most critically endangered species. The proposal is being submitted to NOAA for approval. The project will be completed by the summer of 2008.

Events/Agency Visits:

- On August 29 the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Manager and Northampton County Administrator conducted a state-local watershed management issues meeting for the Northampton County Board of Supervisors and their Planning Commission. A request had come from County Supervisor Andrew Barbour to Delegate Lewis and then forwarded to the Governor's Office seeking state assistance in helping the County to understand all of the various state programs and regulations that should be brought to bear upon the possible development of a County Watershed Management Plan. Representatives from several programs/offices of DEQ (Groundwater permitting, Policy Division, Water Division, Tidewater Regional Office, Water Supply and Coastal Zone Management) , DCR (Soil & Water, Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance), VDOT and VDH (E. Shore Health District, Shellfish Sanitation) made brief presentations and each gave the County a handout summarizing their program's authorities and projects/resources/web links that may be of use to them. About 50 people attended the meeting in Cape Charles. Discussions following the presentations emphasized the County's desire to protect water quality to ensure the long term viability of its top industries: agriculture, shellfish aquaculture and ecotourism.
- On August 30, Coastal Zone Management Program staff met with David Grimes (DEQ-PRO) and Eugene Maurakis of the Science Museum of Virginia (SMV) to discuss a presentation of Coastal GEMS

and innovative solutions to coastal zone management issues on October 24, 2007 as part of the Funsten lecture series. The SMV also expressed interest in creating an interactive kiosk exhibit at the Museum for Coastal GEMS and developing educational/training workshops for use of the application.

Reporting Date: September 7, 2007

Upcoming Major Operational Activities

- The Virginia CZM Program will exhibit at the Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival on October 5-7. This festival was created by the CZM Program in 1993 as part of the Northampton County Special Area Management Plan. For the first time, the event will be held within the Town of Cape Charles (inside the firehouse) rather than on the grounds (under tent) at the Sunset Beach Resort. CZM staff conducted an art contest for the festival poster and will be hosting a boat trip out of Oyster on October 6 to show participants the eelgrass and oyster reef restoration funded by CZM through our Seaside Heritage Program. Emphasis will be on how these restored habitats support various types of birds such as brant and oystercatchers.

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On September 5, 2007, staff of the Coastal Zone Management Program at DEQ attended a meeting with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and Worldview Solutions, a GIS consulting firm in Richmond, to review a demo of the next version of Coastal GEMS (Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System). The new interface will look and feel very much like mapping applications offered online by Google Maps, Yahoo, and the Weather Channel, making it much more user-friendly. Worldview Solutions, VCU, and the CZM Program continue to work on new searching tools, data, and information as they prepare for a release of the second version in late September.
- NOAA has awarded DEQ \$2,503,000 for Virginia's annual Coastal Zone Management Program grants which will begin on October 1, 2007. Staff is preparing contract packages for the 44 separate projects funded by this award with hopes of getting them in the mail during the week of September 10.

Reporting Date: September 14, 2007

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) staff participated in the Southern Tip Partners meeting on September 11 at the E. Shore of VA Wildlife Refuge to review land acquisition priorities for the southern portion of Northampton County. Several high priority parcels were identified and proposals for using FY 2007 CZM and FY 2009 CELCP (Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program) funds from NOAA will be developed at a follow up meeting on October 17. \$200,000 in CZM funds is currently earmarked for the southern tip and Virginia can apply for as many as 3, \$3 Million acquisitions for FY 2009 - although the federal funding notice for CELCP has not yet been issued, but is expected soon.
- Virginia CZM staff met with representatives from VMRC and VIMS on September 13 to discuss recommendations for amending the Coastal Primary Sand Dunes and Beaches Act (the Dunes/Beaches Act). Inventories of these important coastal resources have been conducted by VIMS with Virginia CZM funding over the past 8 years. The inventories show a number of dunes and beaches outside of the 9 localities currently listed in the Dunes/Beaches Act. Meeting participants discussed the VIMS recommendations and planned a presentation to the Coastal Policy Team for October 10.
- Virginia CZM staff attended a joint Northern Neck land use administrator / wetland board member meeting in Warsaw on September 12. The meeting was held as part of the coordination and training requirements of a technical assistance grant to the Northern Neck Planning District Commission. The primary topic was dune and beach management and potential changes to the Dunes/Beaches Act that are being recommended by the VIMS through a grant from Virginia CZM. Two of the Northern Neck localities (Lancaster and Northumberland) currently fall under the jurisdiction of the Act while the

remaining counties (Westmoreland and Richmond) may be added if the Dune and Beach Act is expanded as recommended by VIMS.

- The Virginia CZM Program will hold a Coastal Policy Team meeting on October 10, 2007 at 1:00 at DGIF Offices on West Broad Street.

Reporting Date: September 21, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at DEQ is participating in a Coastal States Organization (CSO) Work Group tasked with advising the CSO on the future framework (goals and principles) of the National Coastal Management Program as part of the effort to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act. This workgroup convened on September 20 and will continue to meet over the next five months as the last phase of the "Envisioning the Future of Coastal Management" project. (http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/czm/czma_vision.html).

Events/Agency Visits:

- The Virginia CZM Program Manager gave a presentation to the Virginia Coastal Land Management Advisory Council on September 20 regarding the CZM Program's Seaside Heritage Program. The Council is interested in coordinating and integrating their activities and priorities with those of the Seaside Heritage Program partners.
- Virginia CZM Program staff met with representatives of the Eastern Shore Community College, Eastern Shore Tourism Commission, The Nature Conservancy and others to discuss a CZM grant to the college to develop an Ecotourism curriculum at the college. The grant will allow the college to develop a suite of courses leading to different levels of Ecotour guide certification. Higher levels of certification may lead to benefits such as access to lands usually closed to the public. A Memorandum of Understanding signed by Seaside Heritage Program partners may become the vehicle for allowing special privileges to highly certified guides.
- The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program will be cosponsoring the "International Submerged Lands Management Conference 2007" that will be held in Williamsburg from October 28 through November 2. The conference, hosted by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, will focus on issues surrounding the administration of submerged lands and adjacent uplands.
- Virginia CZM Program staff will be giving a presentation on Coastal GEMS at the VA PDC GIS Conference in Virginia Beach on Tuesday, September 25. The presentation will focus on coordinated coastal planning and education through the use of the Coastal GEMS Internet mapping application. Coastal GEMS will be featured at an interactive exhibit sponsored by WorldView Solutions, Inc., which has been contracted to develop the next version of the application. This exhibit will give conference attendees a sneak-peek at the newest interface and mapping tools which are still in the development phase. The second version of Coastal GEMS is expected to be released in mid to late October.

Reporting Date: September 28, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- Virginia CZM staff attended the September 25 Marine Resources Commission at which the Rappahannock River Oyster Management Plan, coordinated by CZM staff, was adopted. The CZM Program provided to MRC, for the watermen's use, 200 laminated maps of Areas 1 and 6 which will be open for the October-November 2007 harvest season.
- Also at the September 25 Marine Resources Commission meeting, it was suggested that the CZM Program (possibly its interagency Coastal Policy Team) should review a proposed general permit for

“Temporary Protective Closures for Shellfish.” This general permit would allow oyster ground lessees to stack aquaculture cages up to the water surface with case-by-case approval, modification or denial by the Commissioner. One member of the ad hoc panel writing the proposed regulation expressed concern that such stacking of aquaculture cages could preclude recreational uses, present a navigation hazard and devalue waterfront property. The Virginia CZM Program is currently funding VIMS to create enhancements to the shellfish aquaculture suitability model that may help further refine the best locations for shellfish aquaculture.

- Virginia CZM grant funds (\$283,179) and Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) grant funds (\$514,714) will be drawn down by DEQ from NOAA on Monday October 1 and transferred to DCR by Wednesday in time for the Friday, October 5 closing on the final phase of purchase of the Magothy Natural Area Preserve (Bull tract) in Northampton County. This raises the Virginia CZM Program’s total contribution to purchase of the Magothy Natural Area Preserve \$1,458,684.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM Program staff gave a presentation on Coastal GEMS at the VA PDC GIS Conference in Virginia Beach on Tuesday, September 25. The presentation focused on coordinated coastal planning and education through the use of the Coastal GEMS Internet mapping application. Coastal GEMS was also featured at an interactive exhibit sponsored by WorldView Solutions, Inc., contracted by Virginia CZM, to develop the next version of the application. This exhibit gave conference attendees a sneak-peek at the newest interface and mapping tools which are still in the development phase. The second version of Coastal GEMS is expected to be released in late October.